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INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 1590
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1740

UNCLAS SEOUL 004130

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AMGT](#) [OTRA](#) [KS](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR DAS FEIGENBAUM

REF: STATE 193452

¶1. (U) Embassy Seoul welcomes and grants country clearance to DAS Evan Feigenbaum for December 9-12, 2006 official visit to Seoul.

CONTACT INFORMATION

¶2. (U) Control officer for the visit is Political Officer Andrew Bennett.

Office telephone: (82)(2) 397-4372
Embassy operator: (82)(2) 397-4114 then press "0"
Cell phone: (82)(10) 6480-4372
Home phone: (82)(2) 794-3193
Fax number: (82)(2) 733-4791
Unclassified email: BennettAO@state.gov

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SIPRTNet email: BennettAO@state.sgov.gov

LODGING

¶3. (U) A reservation has been confirmed for DAS Feigenbaum at the Grand Hyatt hotel (Tel. No. 82-2-797-1234, Fax No. 82-2-798-6953) from December 9-12, 2006 within the currently authorized per diem rate. The hotel address is 747-7 Hannam 2-dong, Yongsan-ku, Seoul. Confirmation number is 64573591.

TRAVELERS NOTE

¶4. (U) All official travelers must possess a Korean visa to enter the country. Travelers may contact the nearest Korean consulate/embassy to obtain a visa.

¶5. (U) An airport tax of KRW27,000 (approximately USD27) is usually included in the cost of the ticket. Upon departure, diplomatic passport holders may claim reimbursement at the tax refund center located near the duty-free shops beyond the security check area.

TRANSPORTATION

¶6. (U) Per Embassy policy, we cannot meet official visitors on arrival unless they hold the rank of Ambassador, Deputy Assistant Secretary, and above. Transportation from Incheon International Airport into the heart of the city is readily available by taxi. An airport/hotel shuttle (KAL limousine) also runs every 30 minutes during the day to first class hotels downtown for KRW13,000 (approximately USD13). Availability may be limited, however, late in the evening.

CELL PHONES

¶7. (U) Please be advised that not all cell phones work in Korea. Travelers must first check with their service provider. Blackberrys are also unusable in Korea.

THREAT ADVISORY

¶8. (U) Americans in Seoul are subject to worldwide threat from international terrorists, although we have no information to suggest any specific terrorists threats directed at Americans here. Political demonstrations occur frequently in Seoul, and are occasionally anti-American. Americans can minimize personal risk by staying away from demonstrations and by avoiding confrontation or altercations with protesters. While relatively infrequent by U.S. standards, street crime does occur. Most reported crimes involve pickpocketing in tourist areas and are predominantly non-violent in nature. The security precautions a person would take in any large city are appropriate throughout South Korea. Police are considered capable and well trained. Seoul metropolitan authorities staff English-speaking personnel 24 hours daily to handle local emergencies. Telephone numbers are as follows: 112 police emergency, 119 fire & ambulance.

¶9. (SBU) One must assume that hotel rooms, telephones, cellular phones, and fax machines may be monitored. As a precautionary measure, visitors are advised NOT to discuss sensitive or classified information in uncontrolled areas. Computers, to include laptops and PDAs, are NOT allowed in the Embassy except with prior clearance/permission from the RSO office.

OTHER INFO

¶10. (U) For comprehensive information on South and North Korean politics and economies, please reference the Embassy's new classified website at <http://www.state.sgov.gov>.
VERSHBOW